

To All Our Readers: A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Liberal

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XTMAS BUYING HITS RECORD HIGH



No Needy Families Were Forgotten At Christmas

Representatives of the Richmond Hill Co-ordinated Welfare and Counselling Services were busy Sunday packing and distributing 44 Christmas baskets to needy families. This welfare service is provided by the local service clubs and the senior citizens. Hard at work at the Lions Hall

packing baskets are (left to right) Aubrey Dunn (Rotary), Ray Gemmill (Kinsmen), Horace Roberts (Civitan), Mrs. Florence Davis (Senior Citizens), Welfare Chairman Harry Thomson (Kinsmen), and Jack Farrow (Lions). Seen at the front is Roy Swanson (Kinsmen).

This Christmas was the best in history for most Richmond Hill merchants as their cash registers played the merriest tunes ever. Business flourished both downtown and in the Richmond Heights Centre, as Richmond Hill increased its stature as trade centre for the surrounding area.

Business ranged from "as good as ever" to "an all-time record", according to many local merchants contacted by "The Liberal" today. Many commented on the large number of people coming from up to 15 miles away to do their Yule shopping in Richmond Hill.

H. J. MILLS LTD.: "This was the biggest year in our history", said Harold Mills when asked to comment on this year's Christmas sales.

The firm sold 154,000 roses, nearly 4,000 more than a year ago. Sales were very heavy in western Canada as well as some parts of the east, Mr. Mills reported.

Sales in their newly opened retail division were much better than expected, he said.

AL'S CYCLE & SPORT SHOP: Ward 4 Councillor Al White said his sales were nearly double last year's with skates, car sets, skis and bicycles selling extremely well.

"I thought last year was good, but this one was really terrific", Mr. White said.

He said the four days prior to Christmas were the busiest he has ever seen.

FIRESTONE STORES: Store Manager Bill Miller said sales were definitely up over '61, especially in small appliances like irons, floor polishers, toasters and vacuum cleaners.

"Although there was the usual last minute rush no extra staff was required to handle the crowd," Mr. Miller said.

DYNES JEWELLERS: Vern Dynes, proprietor, called Christmas in 1962 "quite a bit better" than in 1961. "Our turnover this year must be a record, since it seems to get better every year."

Best sellers were watches, diamonds and luggage. Mr. Dynes attributed much of his increased volume to the overall growth of the Richmond Heights Centre. "A lot of our customers are from out of town, from within a 15 mile radius."

SHEPPARD & GILL LUMBER: Walter DeGeer, manager, reported only a slight increase in business during the Christmas season. "Christmas doesn't affect the sale of building supplies and materials," he explained.

Sales of a few small items at Sheppard and Gill did increase (Continued On Page 13)

Quiet Weekend For Town Force

Only four minor accidents were reported by police in Richmond Hill over the holiday weekend.

Saturday, Mrs. Laura Calvert, R. R. 2, Gormley, received bruises to her right and left legs when she was struck from behind by a car driven by Bert Christiansen, 44 Church St. S., Richmond Hill, according to police.

Mrs. Calvert was taken to hospital and later released. The accident took place in the Richmond Heights Centre.

Late Saturday afternoon, about \$300 damage resulted when a car driven by Lorne Dunn, 31 Spencer Avenue, Toronto, backed into a car parked in front of 175 Church St. S., owned by Douglas Brown, 175 Church St. South.

Police report about \$200 damage in an accident early December 24. Damage resulted from a collision at Levedale Road and Yonge Street between cars driven by David Archibald, Station Street, Maple, and Nathan Crystal, 2 Yeoman's Road, Downsview.

On Christmas Day at 10:40 p.m., police say wet road conditions caused a rear-end collision on Yonge Street near Markham Road. No injuries resulted when a car driven by Edward Axson, Cookstown, struck the rear of a car driven by Hart Hartlieb, 312 Douglas Avenue, Toronto.

Trustee M. Kinnee Resigns

Appoint Donald Frise Bayview Shop Director

The York Central District High School Board at its December 17th meeting accepted the recommendation of its management committee and Superintendent Sam Chapman and engaged Mr. Donald Frise of Peterborough as the new shop director for Bayview Secondary School. Presently employed at Penner Collegiate in Peterborough Mr. Frise is thoroughly qualified in electricity and needs only one summer course for an interim specialists certificate. His appointment is to be effective on September 1st next.

The board also received the report of the advisory-vocational committee and a brochure of over 100 pages prepared by Mr. Kippen, shop director of Thornhill Secondary School, outlining the supplies and equipment needed to set up the automobile, machine, electrical, sheet metal and mechanical drafting shops, and boys and girls occupation shops. The materials detailed included everything from a generator tester at \$1,140.18, a Barrett Brake mobile at \$1,166.20 and \$322.40

worth of sockets and wrenches. The various tenders received for each piece of equipment were indicated and the tenders recommended for acceptance were marked.

After some discussion which brought out the fact that the sums indicated had been budgeted for in planning the school and that the money for this equipment would come from the provincial government, the board moved the acceptance of tenders for \$21,768.44 for the automotive shop, \$38,069.71 for the machine shop and \$6,358.87 for the boys' occupations' shop. The equipment for the other shops will be considered at future meetings.

The property committee report was presented by Trustee Robert Edean and included recommendations for the acceptance of several minor change orders for work at Bayview Secondary School. A tender to supply and install drapes at this school was awarded to Allen Venetian Blind Co. at a price of \$2,311.48. Connor Refrigeration was awarded a contract to install a 6' x 6' walk-in refrigerator at Thornhill Secondary (Continued On Page 3)

A Yule Dinner He Has Never Forgotten

Potatoes, soup, sauerkraut and bread - that was Christmas dinner for a Thornhill man 20 years ago. That was just the first of three Christmas dinners Rod Baird, was to eat as a German prisoner of war.

Mr. Baird was only 18 when he joined the RCAF at Calgary in 1940. He made the grade as a bomber pilot in 1941 and spent his first Christmas away from home at Matlock Bath, a small English village.

That first Christmas seemed pretty remote now. It was spent at the home of a friend in the RAF, who was shot down later over Germany. Most memorable part of the day for Mr. Baird was the traditional English Christmas dinner, including English pudding.

In May, 1942, Mr. Baird's plane was shot down over Luxembourg. He wandered for two days after obtaining food and civilian clothing from a Belgian family. Although the Germans had been looking for him, they only captured him when he was unable to respond to a friendly greeting from a group of German soldiers he passed on the road. Mr. Baird still hasn't figured out why he wasn't shot as a spy, since he was wearing no part of his air force uniform, although he was able to produce his tunic.

After being held in a former Belgian convent and in Frankfurt while the Germans tried to find out who had helped him after the crash, he was assigned to Stalag Luft Three, a prisoner of war camp at Sagan in Upper Silesia.

Food was very scarce for that first Christmas as a German prisoner of war. Prisoners depended on Red Cross parcels rather than German rations for their food. Mr. Baird and Harry Daly, now a prominent Montreal stockbroker, joined in a combine to share everything, including their food. Prisoners

made a real effort to save their meagre and tasteless supplies to provide a semblance of a real Christmas dinner. "We tried to celebrate Christmas," Mr. Baird recalls. "Life was pretty hard. We were sleeping on woodshaving mattresses and wearing wooden shoes," he explains. "We were living in barrack blocks, 100 to a room. But you tend to remember the good times."

"A chaplain captured at Dunkirk conducted a normal Christmas service - same as we would have had at home. We sang carols as usual. "The Germans were confident of winning the war that Christmas. They didn't seem to pay much attention to celebrating Christmas." By Christmas, 1943, Mr. Baird had moved to a prisoner of war camp near Konigsberg, Stalag Luft 6. Prisoners were moved to the camp in cattle cars.

"This camp was even more dreary than the last, although there was a theatre. There were 100 men in each poorly-lighted room. Each block had only four rooms."

"The guards at Stalag were much more brutal. They often fired blindly into the barracks with little or no provocation. Several prisoners were shot and killed by guards who had been returned from the Russian front because of shell-shock."

We made some potato wine in a galvanized pail that Christmas. The galvanizing came off the pail and we had to skim it off the top before we used the wine.

"The Germans furnished us with about half a glass of neiber that Christmas too."

"Our food was a little better that Christmas. Our Red Cross ration of spam, cheese, powdered milk, jam and biscuits made up Christmas dinner. "Life wasn't completely dull in that camp. We had a theatre where we produced several

plays including MacBeth. That's the only performance I've ever seen of MacBeth.

"The Swiss Red Cross provided us with plenty of sports equipment. We had a good library and a lot of prisoners spent a lot of time studying. There were bridge tournaments too. "We were a little more optimistic that Christmas. New prisoners told us the tide had turned and new Canadians coming into the camp told us what was happening at home. "We got regular letters too although, of course, they were all censored. "During the summer of 1944 the Germans had to evacuate Konigsberg as the Russians got closer. We were moved from camp to camp by boxcar, finally winding up in an army camp near Hamburg. "By this time conditions were very bad for us. Our guards were getting very little to eat and we were getting less. Our food supply was often despartate. "Everybody lost a lot of weight. I went down from 160 to 125 pounds. At the end, we went for months without salt. When we got it again, we ate it like a child eats candy."

"You can understand why I don't remember too much about that Christmas. "We were marched out of the camp just after Christmas. We had heard Germany had just been invaded and we knew that meant we were all but back home. "We were too hungry to think about Christmas or New Year's."

"At the end, Harry Daly and I "escaped" by simply walking away from the column of marching troops. Nobody tried to stop us. "The escaping group of Russians we joined were in even worse shape than we were. They were dirty and hungry. Their feet were wrapped in rags."

Twenty years is a long time in one man's life. As Mr. Baird talked he kept remembering other parts of the far-away life he lived in the prison camps.

"We were really hungry most of the time. I can't remember half a dozen times when we weren't. We divided our food, we drew lots to see who got each share."

"Like many camps, we used the cigarettes we got in our Red Cross parcels for money. The Germans, who didn't get much tobacco either, were often willing to trade with us."

"As I think back, I recall that we did definitely save food for Christmas as much as we could. "One of the most frightening parts of life in a prison camp was the lack of privacy. You were never alone. You had to climb over other people to get

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Special Gifts For Mom

Four Richmond Hill mothers presented their families with a very special Christmas gift in the form of a brand new baby born Christmas day.

All four gifts were delivered at North York Branson Hospital. Hospital officials say there were six or seven babies born Christmas Day.

None of the four babies born at York County Hospital in Newmarket were additions to families in this part of the county. Population of the nursery on Christmas was 16.

At 272 South Taylor Mills Drive, the boys gained a simple majority over the girls when Mrs. George Barclay gave birth to a baby boy shortly after midnight.

The newcomer has three brothers and three sisters, the oldest seven. He was the only boy born to Richmond Hill parents, Christmas day.

Birth of a daughter increased the Ronald Goulay family of 92 Mill Street, by one. She has two brothers, the oldest two and one-half.

A baby sister was the most important Christmas gift for Dexter Potts, 3, whose father, Thomas Potts, lives at 373 South Taylor Mills Drive.

Fourth addition to the Richmond Hill population came in the form of a daughter for the William Morrisons of 87 Markham Road.

"Decision Mine," Says Police Chief

In reporting the appointment of Constable Doug Young as local safety officer this newspaper credited town council with making the appointment.

However Police Chief R. P. Robbins has informed us the appointment of Constable Young was made by the police department and not by council.

No Increase In Wholesale Rates

Local Hydro Chairman Sam Cook announced this week that Richmond Hill will not pay anything extra for its wholesale power in 1963. Mr. Cook's statement followed an announcement by Ontario Hydro Chairman Ross Strike that nearly half the municipal utilities buying power from Ontario Hydro will pay higher rates next year. He said 167 utilities will pay more, 35 will pay less, and the rates for 153 will remain unchanged.

Richmond Hill last had an increase in wholesale rates in 1960. At that time the local commission absorbed the increase rather than pass it on to the consumer. "We are certainly very pleased to hear our town will not receive any wholesale increase in 1963," stated Mr. Cook. "The purchase of the Yonge Street Substation from the province this year was a major factor in keeping our rates stable", added Mr. Cook. It is an advantage for a municipality to own its distribution system. The commission will consider purchasing the Sneddon Road Substation from the province in 1963.



Present Plaque

Adam S. Smith, Ontario Hydro's central region manager (centre right) is presenting an attractive farm plaque to L. J. Roy, manager Richmond Hill Rural Operating Area. In the background from the left are Mr. Spencer Urquhart, assistant manager, Richmond Hill area; C. E. Crease, regional consumer service engineer; W. Cooke, hydro's regional farm superintendent; Ed Lane and John Van Weelden of the Richmond Hill area farm service as well as several of the young ladies of the staff.

The average consumption of electrical energy on farms in the rural sections of Ontario Hydro's Central Region, is reported to be the highest in the province.

Farm consumers in this sector of Ontario are using about 10,000 kilowatt hours per year on the average indicating that these farmers have discovered the advantages of introducing more electrical equipment to ease the farm work load and speed up their chores and other activities. (Central Region is a triangular section stretching from Bronte nearly to Port Hope with the apex at Sutton, Ontario on Lake Simcoe.)

A plan to acquaint farmers with the many uses of electrical energy has been adopted by the commission's central region staff with the introduction of a dynamic farm program. This program has been so successful that much new electrical farm equipment has been demonstrated and installed on the farms in this region. Information concerning the newest electric farm equipment is presented to farmers first hand by the various rural operating area staff members.

To measure the effectiveness of the contacts with farmers and the amount of new electrical equipment introduced on farms, to assist farmers with their work, a plan devised by Bill Cooke, region farm supervisor, was set up for rural operating area farm representatives in central region. An attractive plaque was prepared (Continued On Page 3)

Man Trapped In Wrecked Auto Christmas Day

A Toronto man spent part of Christmas day in a ditch in Markham Township after being trapped in his wrecked car in a ditch on Steeles Ave. W. near Bayview.

His car had left the road and struck a tree. He was admitted to Branson Hospital with chest and head injuries. His condition is satisfactory, hospital officials said.

Police say the accident was reported by a passing motorist. Mr. Mitchell was alone in the car. The steering wheel was shattered and bent almost to the roof of the car by the impact.

An accident Friday on Don Mills Road south of Gormley resulted in injuries to two Scarborough residents.

Police say a collision between cars driven by William Devries, Main Street, Stouffville, and Larry E. McMahon, Westwood Crescent, Scarborough, resulted in injuries to Mr. McMahon and his wife, who was a passenger in the car.

Both were taken to York County Hospital. Mr. McMahon suffered from a broken right kneecap and a broken left hand, while Mrs. McMahon received a broken right hand and serious facial lacerations.

Mr. Devries escaped with bruised knees and several teeth knocked out.

Oliver Shuller, 55, Caledonia, died Monday of serious head and internal injuries, 24 hours after a car-truck crash at the King City Sideroad.

Police say Shuller was northbound on Highway 400 when his car left the highway and crashed into the rear of a parked sander truck.

He was rushed to Humber Memorial hospital but failed to rally after an emergency operation.